

IRISH LAND COMMISSION.

RETURN to an Order of the Honourable The House of Commons,
dated 3 July 1882 *per*for,

COPY "of MEMORANDUM by Mr. Litton, explanatory of the Views of the
IRISH LAND COMMISSIONERS on the Subject of the Arrangements
made by them with respect to the CIRCUITS of the ASSISTANT COM-
MISSIONERS."

Irish Office,
3 July 1882. }

G. O. TREVELYAN.

Irish Land Commission, 1 July 1882.

THE Land Commissioners, in the arrangement of Circuits, have endeavoured with the greatest anxiety to provide that Assistant Commissioners shall not be employed in localities with which they are or have been connected by residence, profession, or occupation; and fully recognise both the justness and expediency of so doing.

So far as circumstances have admitted, and so far as their information extended, the Land Commissioners have acted on the above principle.

It is due to the Assistant Commissioners to state that many of them pointed out objections to their acting in particular districts, which objections were not within the knowledge of the Commissioners at the time, and in all such cases changes were made accordingly, before the Circuit list was finally settled.

Circumstances do not however admit of the Commissioners laying down as an *absolute* rule, that gentlemen shall not be employed in a locality with which they may be connected; it is necessary that Assistant Commissioners acting within a particular province should more or less be gentlemen connected with that province, and it is unreasonable to suppose that gentlemen selected for their experience and respectability, as the Assistant Commissioners have been, should not have formed connections throughout a very wide district indeed; but subject to this observation, in no case have the Commissioners departed from the rule they laid down for their guidance when it was within their knowledge that objections could reasonably be urged.

This last observation applies both to the case of Mr. J. G. MacCarthy, Assistant Commissioner for Kerry, and one union in Cork, and that of Mr. Wylie in Tyrone.

Mr. MacCarthy was sent to Kerry, simply because he had worked in the remote west of Ireland during the winter, where his duties were very laborious, and the union of Castletown Beerhaven, County Cork, was added, to relieve to a small extent the Sub-commission which had to deal with the large area of County Cork.

At the time the Commissions were fixed, the Land Commissioners were not aware of any objection whatever, and are not up to the present moment aware of Mr. MacCarthy being connected with the district in any sense which would imply a duty on their part to change the sphere of his duties.

The same observation applies to Mr. Wylie. The Commissioners do not consider the mere fact of a gentleman of high character being a member of a circuit, disqualifies him for employment as a judge within the counties comprised therein, which in the case of the North-west Circuit are six in number.

E. P. Litton.

IRISH LAND COMMISSIONERS

COPY of Memorandum for Mr. Lister, explanatory of the Views of the Irish Land Commissioners on the Subject of the Arrangements made by them with respect to the Disposal of the Arrears of the Decree.

(Mr. Trevelyan.)

*Revised, by the House of Commons, in the Printed
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